Applin No. 10/791,900 Amdt. Dated 18 February 2005 Response to Office Action of 4 January 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 8 as being anticipated by Beerling et al. (US 6,592,205).

In response, the Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to one of the essential features of the invention - the fact that the claimed printhead includes nozzles with different rotational orientations. In view of the Examiner's comments and to further emphasize the fact that there are at least two different rotational orientations, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to specifically state that "at least two nozzle arrangements have different predetermined rotations and multiplier with respect to a reference grid". Corresponding amendments to claim 2, which has been deleted, and claim 3 have also been introduced.

It is submitted that, as defined, the rotational orientation of the nozzles is a structurally limiting feature of the amended claim 1. Whilst different rotational orientation of the nozzles does not have to be associated with structural difference in the nozzles, the fact that the nozzles of the printhead have at least two different rotational orientations imposes a definite structural limitation on the printhead itself. Furthermore, it is the printhead and not the single-nozzle configuration that is claimed in this application.

Beerling et al. neither discloses, not suggests a printhead with such a spatial nozzle arrangement. Thus, a person skilled in the art will not be directed towards the present invention as a matter of a straightforward routine. Accordingly, the invention defined in claim one of this application is not only novel, but also inventive in view of the cited prior art document. Consequently, claims 3 to 8 are also novel and inventive by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful comments in this section.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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